

REMARKS

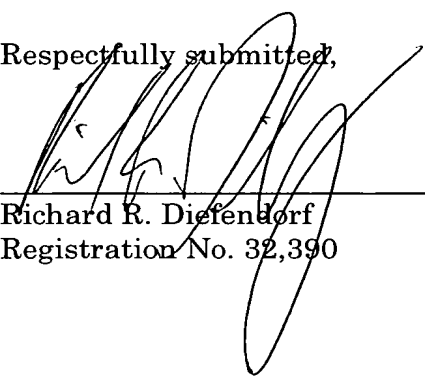
Claims 28-36 remain in this application. Claims 1-27 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 36 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,902,533 to Munger et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,225,264 to Kato et al. Reconsideration is requested. The Munger et al. method does not include "closing" and "injecting" operations as defined by currently amended claim 36. The Munger et al. compression molded panel 23 is not provided by injecting an injection molding compound into a mold cavity as claim 36 requires; instead, cover stock 27 and sheet molding material 29 are compression molded so as to form the panel 23. Although the Munger et al. bracket 25 is formed by injection molding, that bracket 25 is not formed by injecting a compound into a mold cavity defined between a first part of a mold (upper cover mold 3 of the Munger et al. mold) and a decorative part (cover stock 27 of the Munger et al. mold) as claim 36 requires. Consequently, assuming the substitution proposed by the Examiner in the last sentence of section 2 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action could in fact be made, the limitations recited in claim 36 would not be met, and the Munger et al. and Kato et al. disclosures, taken as a whole, do not suggest the method specified in claim 36. It is respectfully submitted that the secondary references discussed in sections 5 and 6 on pages 5-6 of the Office Action do not suggest modifying the Munger et al. method such that the limitations discussed are met, and that currently amended claim 36 is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 36 and are patentable as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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